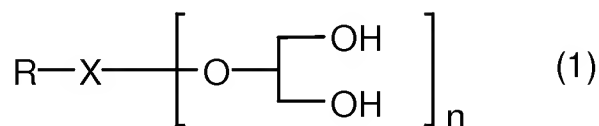


a.) Amendment to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A compound represented by formula (1):



wherein R is selected from

(i) the group consisting of a caboxylic acid active ester, carbonate, maleimido, mercapto, formyl, tresyl, isocyanato, an acid anhydride, an acid halide, vinylsulfonyl, hydrazido, amino, a hydroxyl group, halogen, carboxy, vinyl and phosphono, and

(ii) the group consisting of a carboxylic acid active ester, carbonate, maleimido, mercapto, formyl, tresyl, isocyanato, an acid anhydride, an acid halide, vinylsulfonyl, hydrazido, amino, a hydroxyl group, halogen, carboxy, vinyl and phosphono, which ~~binds~~ are bound to a moiety which is at least one member selected from the group consisting of substituted or unsubstituted alkylene, carbonyl, substituted or unsubstituted imino, O and S;

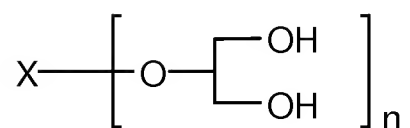
n represents an integer of 3 ~~or more~~; to 1024; and

X represents a structure in which this branching is repeated.

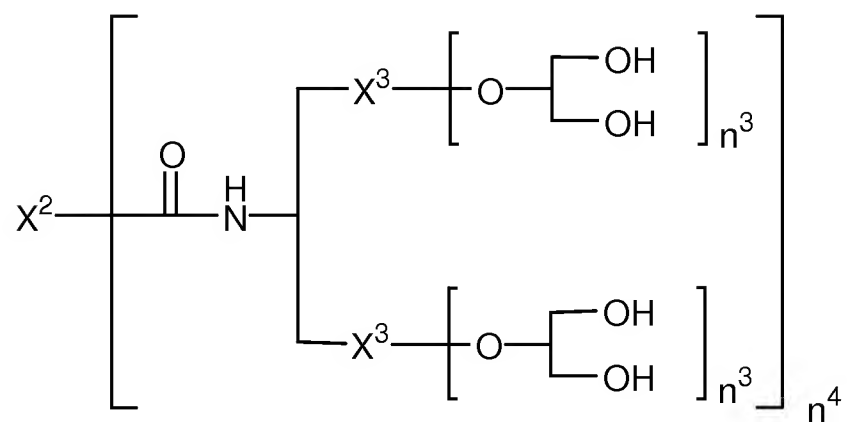
Claim 2 (Canceled).

3. (Previously Presented) The compound according to claim 1,

wherein

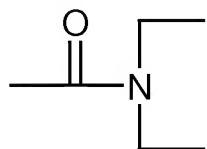


is



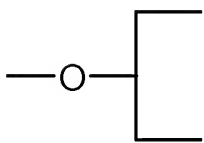
wherein n^3 and n^4 each represents an integer;

X^2 represents a single bond or



or a structure in which this branching is repeated;

X^3 represents a single bond or

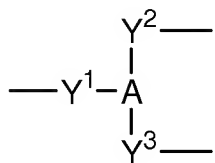


or a structure in which this branching is repeated.

4. (Currently Amended) The compound according to claim 1, wherein n is 2^m , in which m is an integer of 2 ~~or more~~ to 16.

5. (Previously Presented) The compound according to claim 1, wherein n is 4, 8, 16 or 32.

6. (Previously Presented) The compound according to claim 1, wherein X represents a structure in which the following branching is repeated 2 or more times,



wherein A represents CH or N,

Y^1 , Y^2 and Y^3 each independently represent a single bond, or one, or two or more in any combination, which may be the same or different, selected from the group consisting of substituted or unsubstituted alkylene, carbonyl, substituted or unsubstituted imino, O, S, sulfonyl and sulfinyl, and

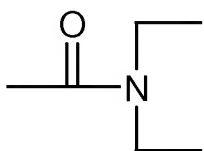
when A, Y^1 , Y^2 and Y^3 exist two or more in number, they may be the same or different.

Claims 7-12 (Cancelled).

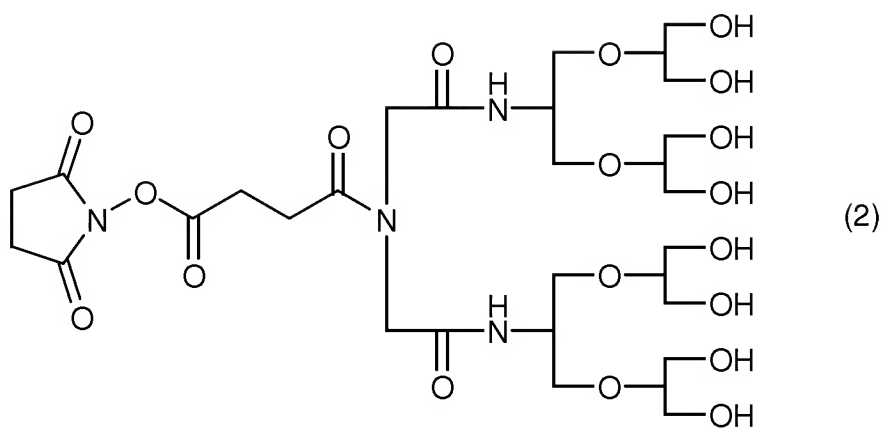
13. (Currently Amended) A mixture comprising at least two compounds ~~according to~~ described in claim 1.

Claims 14-30 (Cancelled).

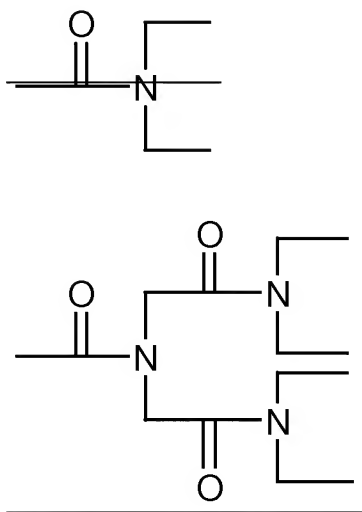
31. (Currently Amended) The compound according to claim 3, wherein R is *N*-hydroxysuccinimide ester - unsubstituted ethylene, n^3 ~~is 2,~~ is 1, n^4 is 2, X^2 is



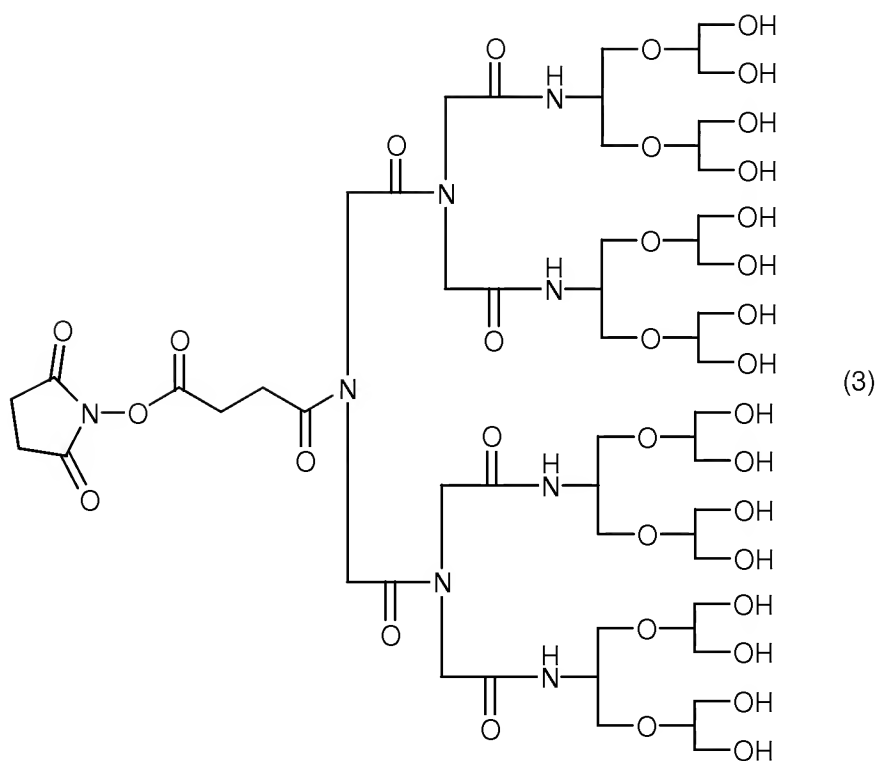
and X^3 is a single bond, providing formula (2):



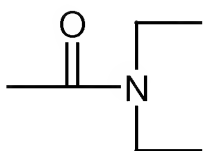
32. (Currently Amended) The compound according to claim 3, wherein R is *N*-hydroxysuccinimide ester - unsubstituted ethylene, n^3 is ~~2~~, is 1, n^4 is 4, X^2 is a ~~structure which~~



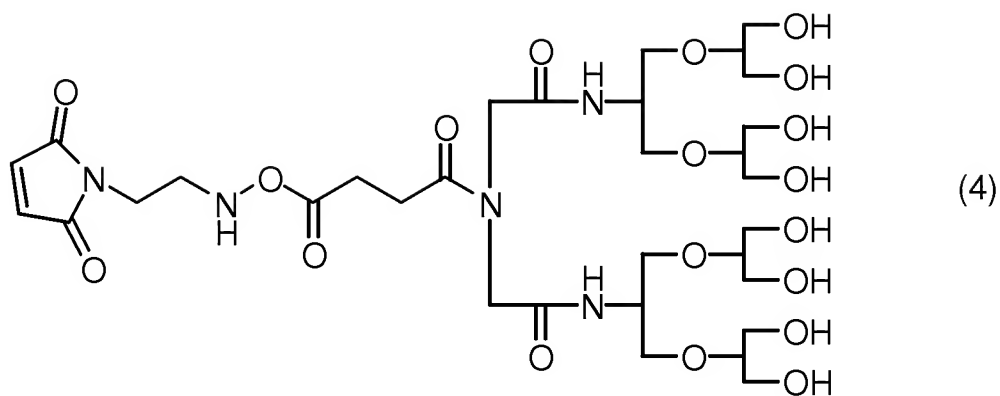
~~is repeated~~ and X^3 is a single bond, providing formula (3):



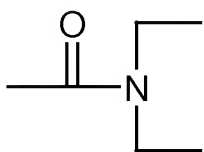
33. (Currently Amended) The compound according to claim 3, wherein R is maleimido - unsubstituted ethylene - unsubstituted imino - O - carbonyl - unsubstituted ethylene, n^3 is ~~2~~, is 1, n^4 is 2, X^2 is



and X^3 is a single bond, providing formula (4):



34. (Currently Amended) The compound according to claim 3, wherein R is mercapto - unsubstituted propylene, n^3 is ~~2~~, is 1, n^4 is 2, X^2 is



and X^3 is a single bond, providing formula (5):

